

INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

Exchange of notes at Washington April 8, 1942

Entered into force April 8, 1942

Amended by agreement of April 4 and 20, 1951¹

56 Stat. 1845; Executive Agreement Series 295

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Acting Secretary of State

LEGACION DE NICARAGUA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

No. 603

APRIL 8, 1942

SIR:

With reference to conversations which I have had with officials of the Government of the United States, I have the honor to inform you that my Government is desirous of securing the cooperation of the United States in the construction of the Inter-American Highway, envisaged in Public Law 375 of the Congress of the United States of December 26, 1941.²

In accordance with the terms of this Law, I therefore request in the name of my Government that the Government of the United States extend co-operation in the construction of the Inter-American Highway in Nicaragua. In this connection, I herewith give formal assurances that the Government of my country will assume one-third of the expenditures to be incurred subsequent to December 26, 1941 by the United States and Nicaragua in the survey and construction of the highway within the borders of Nicaragua.

On December 16, 1941 my Government secured a credit of \$2,000,000 from the Export-Import Bank of Washington. A sum of \$1,250,000 from this credit has been allocated toward my Government's share of the cost of the survey and construction of the Highway as defined above. In addition my Government is making available, as a contribution toward its share in the Project, roadbuilding equipment and materials which it now owns to a value of \$250,000. In the event that these contributions should prove insufficient to pay my Government's share of the Project, it also agrees to contribute in due time an additional amount sufficient to fulfill the obligations which it has incurred under the assurances given in the preceding paragraph.

¹ 2 UST 1848; TIAS 2320.

² 55 Stat. 860.

My Government is aware that the survey and construction work authorized by Public Law 375 is to be under the administration of the Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency. It is therefore the intention of the appropriate Nicaraguan authorities, following this exchange of notes, to reach a subsidiary agreement with that Administration to carry out this provision of the Law.

I trust that these assurances will be satisfactory to your Government for the purposes of the Law.

During the conversations which I have had with officials of the Government of the United States, careful consideration was given to the routing of the Inter-American Highway between Sebaco in Nicaragua and the Honduran frontier. It was generally agreed that in deciding this question there should be taken into account both the international character of the proposed road and the needs of Nicaragua's economy, with neither of these two factors being given exclusive weight. On this basis, it is the proposal of my Government that the Inter-American Highway between the points mentioned be constructed so as to pass through the towns of Matagalpa, Jinotega and Condega, with the definitive routing between those points subject to final survey.

I take pleasure in availing myself of this opportunity to present to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

MARIANO ARGÜELLO

The Honorable
SUMNER WELLES,
Acting Secretary of State of the United States

The Acting Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1942

EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's kind note of April 8, 1942 in which you requested the cooperation of the United States Government in the construction of the Inter-American Highway in Nicaragua.

I take pleasure in informing Your Excellency that the assurances which you offer meet the requirements of Public Law 375 of the Congress of the United States of December 26, 1941. It is consequently the intention of this Government, as soon as the subsidiary agreement which you mention has been concluded between the United States Public Roads Administration and the appropriate Nicaraguan officials, to extend to the Nicaraguan

Government the cooperation envisaged in the above-mentioned Law, subject to the appropriation of the necessary funds by the Congress of the United States and to the receipt of the necessary assurances from the other Republics mentioned in the Law.

My Government has given careful consideration to the route proposed by Your Excellency's Government for the highway between Sebaco and the Honduran frontier and is in agreement therewith. Preliminary surveys have shown that a practicable route exists via Matagalpa, Jinotega, and Condega although in the case of Jinotega, it is indicated that the highway itself will pass somewhat to the north and east of the town, and a short approach road will be required.

My Government is gratified that through this cooperative undertaking it will be possible to complete the Inter-American Highway through Nicaragua. Transportation facilities will be improved, new lands and new natural resources developed, additional markets opened, and local economic conditions benefitted through the useful expenditure of money which this project envisages. Both of our countries should happily profit therefrom. I sincerely trust that the highway will serve not only as a link to increase material intercourse between our nations but also as another bond in the close friendship which unites us.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

SUMNER WELLES

*Acting Secretary of State of the
United States of America*

His Excellency

Dr. MARIANO ARGUELLO,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua.